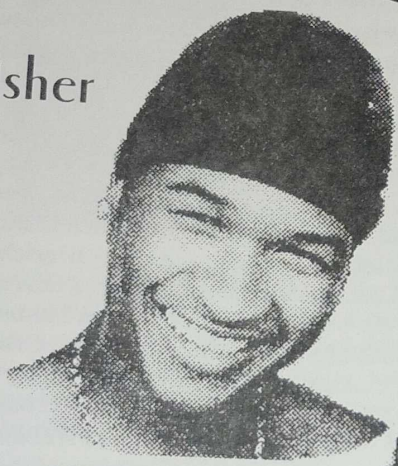
The RedBird Word

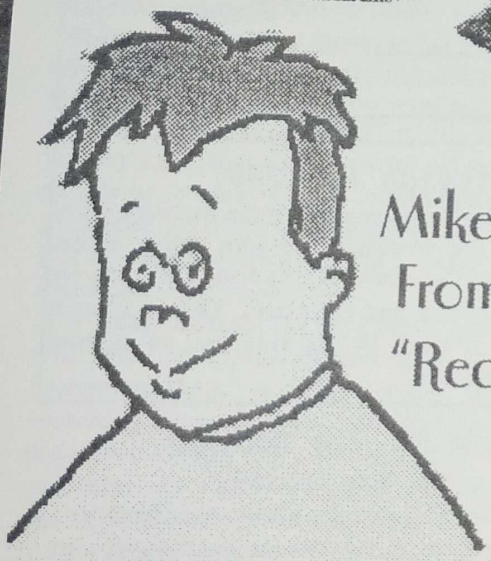
Volume 34 February 2001 Number 6

Celebrity Look Alikes!

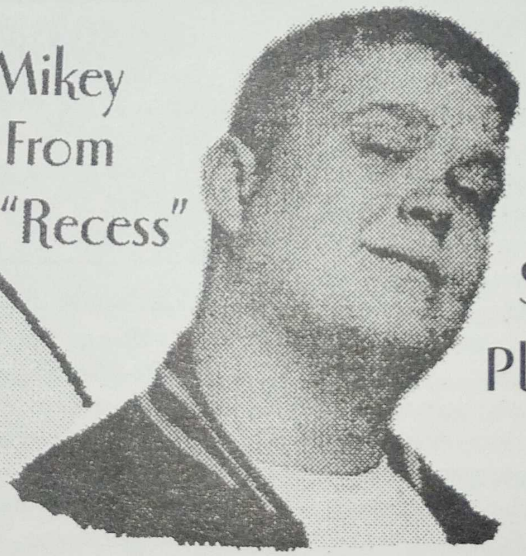
Usher



Todd Lockhart



Mikey From "Recess"



Sam Plunkett

News
Who Gets a Pit Sticker???

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Sports
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Blame Canada

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Answer Key to January's Cover

Did You Recognize These Faces?

The RedBird Word cover last month featured many staff members' yearbook pictures from 1970. The staff members pictured were, clockwise from top right: Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Wolke, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Brennecke (retired math teacher), Mr. Underwood, Mr. Ford (retired biology teacher), Mr. Fields, Mr. Waters and Mrs. Hall (retired journalism teacher).

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Reference to the Editorial section in the January issue of the RedBird Word, I would like to respond to the statement concerning the use of "rifles" during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly.

During this assembly, the AFJROTC program was asked to participate in the program and support the honoring of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We gladly responded to this invitation. However, the statement and concern of the rifles used during this presentation were made in error.

First, the administration was aware and approved the use of these "rifles" in support of the program. The school does not condone the presence of weapons on school property. The presence of the rifles used during the program was to identify one with the real world situation as it was during this period in our history. The thought of, "the approved presence of any weapons on campus fogs the message of antiviolence a school should be trying to instill in its students," was incorrect. Secondly, these rifles were borrowed from an Army High School JROTC program and they have been demilitarized so they cannot be used for firing. These rifles have a metal rod placed in the barrel, the firing pin has been removed, the safety pin has been soldered in position and the magazine has been welded shut. There is no possibility of them being used for firing. Third, and an important issue, to my knowledge no research or questions were asked concerning the status of the rifles. The statement and concern voiced during the editorial was inaccurate and reflected a negative tone on the assembly and the "realism" being added to the program.

I applaud your school newspaper and the issues you cover. I believe the press is very instrumental and should cover issues thoroughly. However, I do take exception to the statements made concerning the assembly and use of "stage props." Bringing "rifles" into a school with the possibility of danger was never an area of concern.

We should remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the ideal he stood for and the significance of the issues discussed.

Larry L. Baker, Lt. Col, USAF (Ret)
SASI

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Our Mission For 2001

Our mission as journalists of the RedBird Word is to bring you, the students, the who, what, when, where, and why of the news. Aside from the facts we will strive to enlighten and entertain. This is a paper for the students, created by the students, so as your voice, help us be heard.

Letters to the Editor

What Do You Think?

The RedBird Word staff wants to hear from you. If you have any questions, comments about a story, or want a refund, let us know. Feel free to drop your letter by Room 401, put it in Mrs. Brave's mailbox in the Main Office, or send an e-mail to the Editor-in-Chief at klappin@journalist.com. Also, clubs and organizations who would like to advertise events or awards can have a club sponsor or member contact us. We'll run an ad for your activity for FREE, just let us know!

cover photos by Missy Minton

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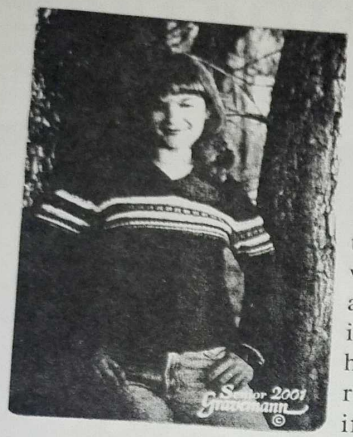


Valentine Blues Back Again

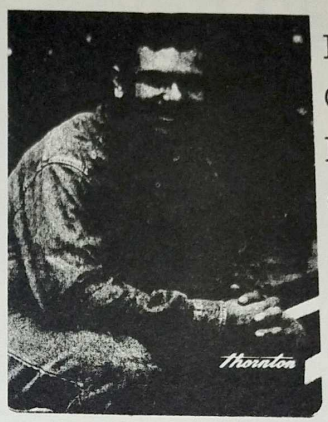
By Jama Fabry
Features Editor

What ever happened to cuddly little Cupid, with his golden locks and angel wings, flying about in search of two lonely hearts to unite with his arrows? Lately it seems as if the innocent cherub has joined the Tooth Fairy and the true meaning of Christmas in the back of our minds.

Valentine's Day has mutated from a simple day of showing how much you care to another excuse for malls to make some profit. Teddy bears, bouquets of flowers, chocolate covered cherries- they all just add to Hallmark's exploitation of romance. What is our society coming to when we can no longer enjoy the company of our loved ones but are forced to express our feelings with material gifts? Please spare our delicate emotions from statements such as, "Do you want our love to shrivel up and die like these flowers?" or the ever-popular, "Are you trying to make me *fat* with all this candy?" Many people have been reduced to taking their boyfriend's or girlfriend's friends with them to pick out a "thoughtful" gift or spending hours at the jeweler's to find out how much the other *really* spent.

Sadly enough, the ploy that " your significant other will love and appreciate you more if you spend lots of money on them" actually works. We find ourselves searching through mountains of stuffed animals to find the adorable ones that kiss each other, reading card upon card until we finally find that perfect one and dishing out all of our dough for roses that will inevitably expire in less than a week.

Valentine's Day is a "cute" holiday, and though single people would like to throw up on it, we try our hardest to keep it that way. A solution? Well, you could wear black, not send a single valentine, or simply hide your eyes from all those gigantic pink hearts everywhere. Either way, Cupid is in the unemployment office. When you get to the point where "If you can't beat them, join them" sets in, be sweet and make me a batch of those heart-shaped cookies too, please.



Electoral College Needs to Go

By Jeff Saville
Sports Editor

This past November, many 18-year-olds were able to exercise their right to vote for the first time, a right protected under the 26th Amendment, an empowering right that allows one man or woman, to stand up and choose the next president and vice-president of the United States of America. But oh no, wait a minute, what's all this noise about the electoral college vote?

Article 2, Section I of the Constitution provides that the electoral college is the real body that elects the president and vice-president. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the electoral votes, not the popular vote. But how can this be? I thought the people of the land elected the president and his vice-president.

The drafters of the Constitution decided to create the electoral college system to entrust the responsibility of electing the president and vice-president to individuals whose choice would not be effected by politics. That's right, our forefathers decided that we were not capable of electing the most qualified candidates. If the intent of the drafters was that the most popular candidate should be elected president, then let the people speak. However, under our electoral college system, a candidate can be elected to the highest office of the land even if it is not what a majority of the people want.

I believe the people are ready to elect their officials with a popular vote system. This belief was intensified with the past election and the vote count problems in Florida. It was not a concern what the popular vote results were, but who won the state in order to win the electoral votes, and in this case, the presidency. The electoral college system allows a political strategist to focus only on the states with the largest electoral vote and not on the nation as a whole. Thus, I believe it is time to abolish the electoral college and replaced it with an election by popular vote.

RBW

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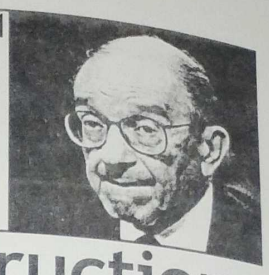
NEWS

AHS-USA-World



Alton High Rages Against Destruction

By Robb Davis

The St. Louis-based advocacy group, Rage Against Destruction brought its antiviolence message and music to the Alton High auditorium for two shows on January 22. The show included prize giveaways, a performance by Knowdaverbs, and a question and answer session with selected Alton High journalism students.

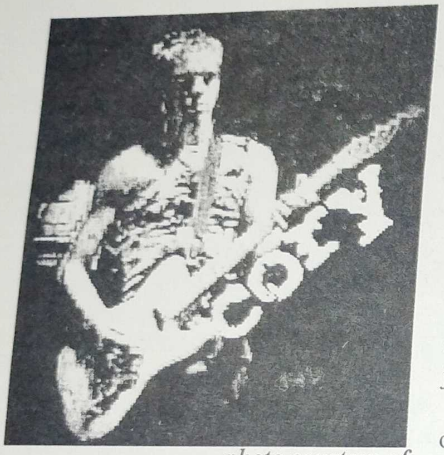


photo courtesy of www.rageagainstdistruction.com

Cory from Rage Against Destruction poses with his guitar.

DJ Magician opened the show, spinning some of the hottest tracks of today and the early 90s as Alton High students danced and sang along in their seats. DJ Magician then brought out two of the moderators, Steve Lolly and Annie Dollarhide, who proceeded to give away prizes ranging from t-shirts to a DVD player to a lucky dance contest winner. The head moderator, Tom Woodcock, father of four, then came out and said a few words about why he is with the group. Woodcock also told the story of a young girl shot in a Chicago school by another young student. He then introduced the five member Nashville based band Knowdaverbs.

photo courtesy of www.rageagainstdistruction.com

Nirva from Rage Against Distruction while performing.

The group rocked out their positive message with fresh rhymes and sounds ranging from rap to rock, and even some reggae. They closed out the show with a remake of John Lennon's classic "Give Peace A Chance" with some Bob Marley lyrics thrown in for good measure.

Greenspan, the Economy What Does It All Mean?

By Jeffrey Dossett

During the past eight years, the economy has been booming. Times have been good, but now that consumer confidence falling, it seems that everyone is saying how the economy is starting to slow down.

In the past few months, the stock market has dropped with some stocks falling to nearly nothing. Consumer confidence is lower than it has been in the last 10 years. Many believe that a recession is on its way.

In hopes of keeping America's economy booming and staying away from a recession, the Federal Reserve Board, and its chair Alan Greenspan, have lowered interest rates a point in one month. This is the first time in history that the Board has taken such drastic measures. Now, with the Clinton administration out of the White House and the Bush administration in, it could be interesting to see what happens.

In recent months, Alan Greenspan's views have changed drastically on the issue of tax cuts, but it is believed that they have only changed to reassure the American people.

Promised a Pit Sticker?

By Diane Holden

In January, Principal Robbins announced that Pit stickers could be purchased by anyone with 15 credits. Every student with 15 credits was thrilled. The privilege that had been taken away in the beginning of the school year had returned.

For a week, announcements were made saying that only 15 credits were needed to get a Pit sticker. On the day the pit stickers would have been made available, the rules changed, making 16 credits the magic number. Junior Becky Hughes said, "I was so mad once I heard you needed 16. They didn't even give us an explanation."

A few days later Mr. Robbins came back on the intercom and explained the change. There were too many people with 15 credits. Over 200 students qualified and there were not enough parking spaces.

After increasing the number of credits needed for a pit sticker from 15 to 16, the number of students who qualified for parking in the Pit was about 65. Junior Marissa Anderson, one of the students who received a Pit sticker, said, "I'm very happy. I'm glad I took summer school."

Later the number was changed to 15.5 credits.

Student Senate Collects Cans

By Erin DeBlass

In the coldest winter in 20 years, local food pantries are struggling to keep up with the demands of the community. The Alton Crisis Food Center has been feeding an average of 40 people every day this winter.

"We've been feeding hundreds of needy people this winter, and it's putting a big dent in our food supplies," said Ruth Wilson, director of the Alton Food Crisis Center, as reported in *The Telegraph*.

To help aid the food pantry, Student Senate will be holding a canned food drive to benefit the Crisis Center. The goal for the food drive will be 2001 cans of food.

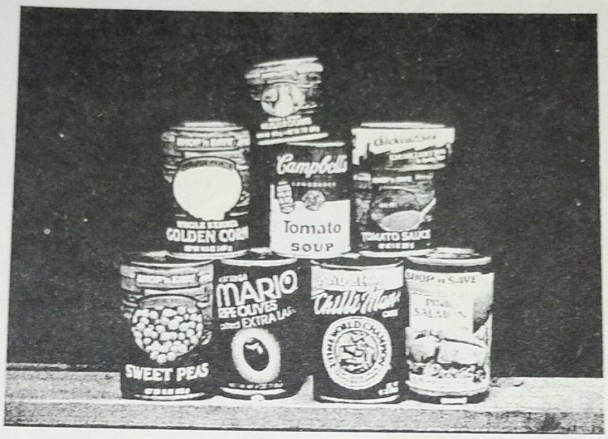


photo by Erin McCann

This year Student Senate plans to reward the teachers in addition to their students for their participation in the event. Lunch at My Just Desserts will be awarded to a teacher through a random drawing of participating teachers.

Students will be rewarded based on the number of cans their first hour class donates. The class who donates the most cans will receive a doughnut party. The second highest class will receive a cookie party, followed by an M&M candy party for the third highest class.

Student Senate will collect the cans from classes beginning on March 1. The canned food drive will end on March 9.

THE POWER OF LAUGHTER

By Jennifer Maguire

Laughter is being called the latest weapon in the fight against heart disease, since researchers at the University of Maryland reported that heart-healthy people are more likely than those with heart disease to laugh more often and use humor to smooth situations.

Many people don't believe that laughing can be used as a potential cure for illness.

"I just don't think laughter could cure heart disease," said senior Patrick Fifer. "It can't cure a lot of things. It just makes people happy."

The report also states that the cranky people who rarely laugh and the others without any type of sense of humor can learn how to laugh at the funny things in life.

The report showed that the healthy people were more likely to laugh more frequently and use their sense of humor to get out of uncomfortable situations. Those with heart disease, on the other hand, were 40 percent less likely to laugh in those certain situations.

"When I'm sick, I don't laugh," said junior Letecia Slack.

Laughter may also help a patient who has already had a heart attack. Researchers believe that it would be easy to add laughter to the rehabilitation program, and adding more advice on how to laugh would be simple.

Laughing more often and seeing the humor in situations can be learned. All that is really necessary to gain a sense of humor in situations is to make the best of all funny situations.

"It gets your mind off of things I guess," said sophomore Louis Robinson.

However, the concept of laughter being a good medicine isn't new. It was even mentioned in Proverbs 17:22 in the Old Testament, which quotes, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

photo by Erin McCann

Juniors Caleb Haynes, Samantha Bellamy, Marissa Anderson and Becky Hughes laugh together in the pit before school.

How to Make the ACT Work for You

By ACT Media Relations

When all high school juniors in Illinois take the ACT Assessment in April, they will have to answer a career questionnaire called the Interest Inventory.

Some students think it's a waste of time, but the information you'll get after filling out the survey can help you save many years that you might have wasted otherwise.

Barbara Sullivan hopes you don't lose 10 years like she did.

Sullivan is a successful speech pathologist in Kansas City, but the road to her career wasn't smooth. She took the ACT Assessment and didn't get a very high score. Her father had just passed away and she was having a tough time. She flunked out of college, then worked until she was 28, when she returned to college to start over. She earned a bachelor's degree, and then a master's. She is now working on her Ph.D..

"I always knew I could handle college," she said. "The hard part for me was figuring out what to study, what career to choose."

The answers were in her ACT information all along. She just didn't know it.

Results from the Interest Inventory showed that the career most closely reflecting her interests was speech pathology. Her test scores showed she was strong in science and weaker in math.

"I don't want students to look back and say, 'I really wish I would have gone to college.' Really search within yourself," she advises. "You know what you can do, and if you think you can do it, you can."

She also hopes students will read and use the information they get from their ACT results. You will find out what your current academic skills are and what career areas match your abilities. This information can help you plan your life, and if you happen to get a low score, don't be discouraged. Find out from your counselor and your score report what the numbers mean and how you can build your knowledge and skills.

You can find many examples of people who achieved success by working hard, making informed decisions and believing in themselves. As you prepare to take the ACT Assessment, remember that ability exists within all of us. Use the ACT as a road map and not a stop sign, and you'll be on your way.

Filling Out FAFSA Helps College Costs

By Chavon Curry

It's that time of year when new college students need to think about how their college education will be paid for. Many seniors catch "senioritis" and don't get involved with what is needed for college. This is the time to look into college funding.

The Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) is written and processed by the U.S. Department of Education. Basically, Uncle Sam figures out how much you can afford, then reports the information to colleges. Your future school then sends out the financial aid package, whether in the form of scholarships, loans, grants, or a work-study program on campus.

Importantly, you will need your parents' tax return from the prior year, all income sources, and bank and mortgage papers.

"Many people fear the FAFSA because it is a financial document," stated Mrs. Candal-Fernandez, assistant director of Financial Aid for New Jersey's Montclair University. The directions that come with the FAFSA tell you exactly what to do.

Every student, despite family income, should apply for financial aid. The Department of Education started accepting FAFSA forms on January 1, 2001. After the FAFSA is processed the student will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR lists the amount that your family is expected to contribute. Colleges use the SAR to award financial aid.

For more information on the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Dog Food Causes Fiasco at AHS

By Megan Williams
Senior Editor

The issue of how extra credit is granted to students at AHS has recently become a controversial issue. In recent weeks, several anonymous phone calls were made to the Sound Off column in *The Telegraph* regarding extra credit being given in exchange for dog food. These accusations were taken very seriously by Alton Superintendent James Baiter.

Teachers Sharon Capps and Carl Day, sponsors of the Social Studies Club, offered extra credit to their students if they wanted to contribute dog or cat food to the Social Studies Club's animal food drive, but it was optional.

Parents argued this practice was not fair to the students who cannot afford to buy dog or cat food.

Offering extra credit for participation in different school drives is a common practice on campus. Extra credit is offered to increase student involvement in community service projects. Social Studies Club, for instance, has collected canned food for shelters and needy families and raised money to buy toys for the Toys for Tots program. It has also donated hundreds of pounds of dog and cat food to the 5-A's animal shelters.

"I enjoy Social Studies Club. I think it's crazy that extra credit is even being debated," said Social Studies Club member Adele Lahl.

The question has now been raised whether or not Social Studies Club will continue.

Black History Month in Full Effect

By Jama Fabry
Features Editor

When people pull up to a stop light or bite into a peanut butter sandwich, many never stop to think about the setbacks and prejudices the inventors of these necessities had to overcome. In a truly unique class American Minorities students study the part of our nation's history that is not discussed in regular text books.

In the Social Studies elective American Minorities, groups such as Asians, Africans, Hispanics and Native Americans are talked about in-depth. The impact of these groups and individuals within them plays a major role in the development of our society.

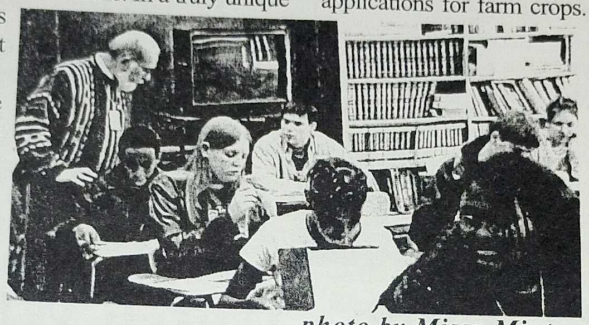


photo by Missy Minton

With February being Black History month, the class is learning more about famous African-Americans. The celebration itself is owed mainly to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who found that the black population was ignored in the history books. He established the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

Dr. Daniel Williams performed the first successful open heart surgery, Missouri-born George Washington Carver developed over 300 peanut-based products, 118 potato products, and hundreds of other applications for farm crops. Madame C. J. Walker developed hair care systems and other beauty products, for which she made a fortune. A large part of Washington D.C. was designed by Benjamin Bannacker and Dr. Charles Drew researched blood plasma, set up the first blood bank, and died because an all-white hospital would not give him a transfusion.

"American Minorities is designed to give students an insight on the information they would not be exposed to in a typical class. We need to have a class such as this to teach the *true* history of our country," said Marshall Brown, American Minorities teacher and active member of the NAACP.

February is Black History Month because in February...

- The 15th Amendment, giving blacks the right to vote, was passed in 1870.
- Civil Rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, W.E.B. DuBois, was born in 1868.
- First black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels, took office in 1870.
- Malcolm X, militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism was shot to death by three black Muslims.

Gospel Choir Hits a High Note

By Erin McCann
Managing Editor

Students are constantly exposed to rich cultural diversity on this campus. One group that is working hard to expose students to their heritage is the Alton High School Gospel Choir.

Having been active since 1988, Gospel Choir has been under the direction of several of the school's teachers including Anne Johnson and Vernetta Caffey. The group is now under the direction of Norma Henderson.

"To me it makes a more rounded cultural atmosphere," said Henderson. "We are not only teaching the history, but we are also bringing out that there are many ethnic groups that play a predominate role in history."

Already this year, the Gospel Choir has performed at the Martin Luther King Jr. assembly and celebration, St. James Baptist Church, Lewis and Clark Grade School, and North Middle School. During February they will be performing at East Middle School, the Lincoln Douglas Banquet and the Black History Month Assembly at Alton High.

Gospel Choir has been trying to get funding to purchase uniforms for the group. The plan is to raise money and eventually buy slacks, skirts, and shirts for the group to wear when performing.

The group is not limited to only gospel style songs. They also add ballads and spirituals to the mix. Gospel Choir has been very important to many students. It has helped them to realize their talents and get in touch with their heritage.

"Gospel Choir has helped me to meet new people," said junior Jayme Reed. "It has inspired me. I have learned so much about singing, and there are a lot of talented people in Gospel Choir who are willing to help each other."

"I think that a lot of the kids enjoy it, but this is an Alton High Gospel Choir, and I would like to see a lot of the white students join," said Henderson. "Don't be afraid. All you have to do is sing."

Henderson encourages new students to get involved with the choir, which meets every Monday after school at 3:15 in the cafeteria.

"You can join any time; I never make a cut off," said Henderson. "There are no try outs. If they have the courage to come, then we welcome them. The more the merrier."

Students Visit D.C., See Inauguration

By David Fitzgerald
News Editor

Thirteen students and five adults from Alton High School traveled to Washington D.C. to witness the inauguration of George W. Bush first hand. They left January 19 and returned January 22. Sharon Capps and Carl Day, honors social studies teachers and cosponsors of Social Studies Club, sponsored the trip and acted as chaperones.

The first, third and fourth days of the trip were devoted to travel and sight seeing. Senior Julie Pisarek said, "My favorite thing was the Smithsonian. I really liked seeing the Hope Diamond and seeing our nation's history. I also liked being where actual presidents walked at one time."

The second day of the trip was the inauguration. The students and adults stood out in the cold and frigid misty rain to catch a glimpse of history. "It was so cold I couldn't feel my toes and fingers. The worst part was not being able to see the inauguration because of trees," Pisarek said.

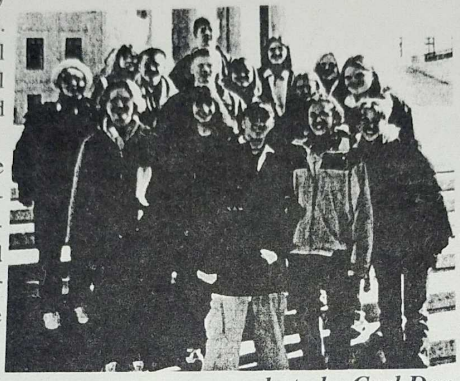


photo by Carl Day

"My favorite part was just going off with my friends to see all of the monuments," said junior Heather Iron.

Other students on the trip were seniors Solomon Dell, Isaac Sandidge, David Fitzgerald, Ashley Holland, Heather Whitten, Lois Tucker, Rebecca Bohne and Jamie Heil, and juniors Jane Jackson, Jennifer Frederick and Clinton Followell.

Leukemia Hits Home

By Christin Campbell

Doctors recently diagnosed a former student, who asked to remain anonymous, with leukemia. He initially thought he had mono, but a blood test revealed leukemia. The doctor rushed his results to a specialist, who immediately admitted him into Barnes Jewish Hospital for treatment.

Leukemia is a form of cancer that attacks the body's bone marrow. While the cause is still unidentified, doctors know that two percent of patients diagnosed with leukemia have worked and/or lived around nuclear power plants or products such as benzene. The rest of leukemia cases have no known cause.

Several different types of leukemia are known, but the most prevelant are acute and chronic. According to Onhealth.com, 90 percent of younger leukemia patients attain remission, and over half are cured completely.

Each kind has different symptoms and treatments. Because of this, symptoms are hard to identify, but "enlarged lymph nodes, swollen gums, an enlarged liver or spleen, significant bruising, or a small pinpoint rash are common," according to Onhealth.com. The disease can be detected during a physical examination with a routine blood test. Onhealth says, " A blood test showing an abnormal white cell count is usually adequate for a tentative diagnosis."

The last 40 years have had considerable advancements in the treatment of leukemia. The five-year survival rate for young patients has risen from four percent in 1960 to over 50 percent in 1990. Advances in bone marrow transplants and chemotherapy promise that the future will not be so bleak for leukemia patients.

Watch What You Eat

MSG May Be Harmful to Health

By Jennifer Scoggins

People consume food everyday to stay alive, but most never stop to think about what is really in the food they eat. As the years progress, people are finding more ways to make eating more convenient for the normal household. The most common way to accomplish this is by adding chemical food additives when processing.

The website www.findarticles.com explained in a report that while most food additives are safe, still others pose a risk. While that risk is usually tiny for any one person, it can cause serious problems when millions of people consume the additives. One common food additive that can be very harmful is MSG (Monosodium Glutamate), most often found in Chinese food, chips, frozen entrees, restaurant food, salad dressing and soup. In the 1960s, researchers discovered that large amounts of MSG fed to infant mice destroyed nerve cells in their brains. Reactions to MSG include headache, nausea, weakness and burning sensations in the back of the neck and forearms, as well as more serious reactions like changes in heart rate and difficulty breathing.

A large contributor to processed foods with chemical additives is fast food restaurants. Nearly everything prepared in these establishments is preprocessed into a ready-to-cook state helped largely by additives. Scientists are trying to link the chemicals in foods to early development in children. One view states that you would have to eat large amounts of these additives for them to effect you, but side effects are occurring more often, so it is important to check ingredients before you eat anything.

The Unknown Risks of Caffeine

By Laura Smock
Photographer

The most widely used mind-altering drug may be exactly what you wake up to every morning. According to the International Food Information Council, approximately 110 million Americans drink coffee on a regular basis. The larger percentage of that number is people between the ages of 18-24. The American Medical Association also has concluded that each day the average adult consumes approximately 280 mg of caffeine (about two large cups of coffee). "I like a hot cup of black coffee because I love the taste and the caffeine helps me get going in the morning," said senior Tim Mueller.

The reason caffeine works so well as a mild stimulant for the nervous system is because it enters the blood stream 15 minutes after it has been consumed and it takes the body six hours to eliminate half of the caffeine. "I drink one cup of coffee in the morning and that's it or I can't sleep at night." said Alton High attendance clerk MaryBeth Reed. Smokers breakdown caffeine more quickly than non-smokers and pregnancy tends to slow down the process. Caffeine causes the body to go into "fight or flight" behavior, which increases the rate and force of the heartbeat, thereby providing the brain and other tissues with more oxygen.

Caffeine is found naturally in the leaves, seeds and fruits of more than 60 plant species, of which cocoa beans, tea, coffee, cola and guaran are the best known. It is also found in over-the-counter pills like cold medicines, diet aids and now more recently Vivarin and No Doz.

Although students find no harm in taking such stimulants to stay awake, Consumer Reports on Health did when they conducted a study in 1999. In this study they found an unusual dose of caffeine can raise blood pressure levels temporarily, and if occurring during stressful periods, can be dangerous to people with hypertension. The study also concluded that those who experience irregular heartbeats should eliminate caffeine from their diets. Also, those who suffer from anxiety problems should avoid caffeine use since large doses of the substance can trigger panic attacks. Finally, it was concluded that insomnia and emotional distress were effects of long term use of the drug.

The Food and Drug Administration suggests that people who consume large amounts of coffee (more than five cups a day) on a regular basis find that their bodies build up a tolerance to caffeine and therefore have to increase the amount they intake.

Caffeine has been found to have some positive effects on the human body when used in smaller dosages. "People who take in small amounts of caffeine say that they feel more awake and alert." said Roland Griffiths of the John Hopkins School of Medicine. There have been improvements in motor performance, sensory activity, alertness and a decrease in fatigue.

As with anything a massive dose can be lethal. It proved deadly when a North Carolina college student overdosed on caffeine pills, swallowing over 90 pills, which is equivalent to about 250 cups of coffee. Other students have had to be rushed to the hospital for an overdose of these pills. It takes approximately 10 grams of caffeine in succession, which equals about 80 cups of coffee, to cause death.

Encounter Begins Musical Ministry

By Robert Doyle
Copy Editor

For the 29th consecutive year, Encounter is now preparing a musical performance that will touch many lives during the season, which ends in August. Encounter is a nondenominational Christian choir and service group, which began in 1972.

Every January, Encounter holds a "lock-in" for possible members to become acquainted with the members, the adult sponsors, the musical and the meaning of the group. The following Sunday, and every Sunday evening after that until Easter, the group rehearses the musical at Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton. Beginning on Easter Sunday and continuing through August, Encounter travels to area churches to perform the musical during evening performances.

In the middle of the season, Encounter travels a few hours from home for one weekend on a Mini Tour to perform the musical in other areas. Near the end of July, however, the group plans a 10 day tour, which is typically several hours away. Last year's tour took place in Florida, while previous years took the group to Toronto, Washington D.C. and Colorado.

The director of Encounter this year is Debbie Kanyo, who is also the music teacher at Lovejoy Elementary School. This is her eighth year of directing the group.

Other sponsors include Main Street UMC youth director Tim Sandifer, Suzie Woelful, Jerry Leonard, Jim Kanyo, Tom Cunningham and Steve and Cathy McCann. The group has also formed a Student Leader program, consisting of members Robert Doyle, Erin McCann, Alison Hanold, Paul Rogers, Josh Gowan and Jayme Vahle.

"It (Encounter) is good for our community because it gives high school and college students a chance to express themselves religiously," said Sophomore Jon Kribs.

RBW

Famous Faces and Ca

Cover St

1 A. picture courtesy of http://www.geocities.com/kai_coates
Reese Witherspoon
1 B. photo by Missy Minton, Photographer
Senior Stephanie Hoke

2 A. photo by Whitney Harvey
Freshman Whitney Harvey
2 B. picture courtesy of garbage.com
Shirley Manson of Garbage

3 A. picture courtesy of Yahoo!
Ludacris
3 B. photo by Minton
Junior Michael Clemons

6 A. picture courtesy of http://www.gumbyworld.com/
"G" from Gumby
6 B. photo by Porter
Senior Ben Harris

7 A. photo by Missy Minton, Photographer
Sophomore Derek Vaughn
7 B. picture courtesy of http://members.tripod.com/~jmstein/johnny/main.htm
Johnny Bravo

d Cartoon Look Alikes February 2001

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4 A. photo by Amy Porter, Cover Story Editor
Senior Laura Smock

4 B. http:// www.maketoast.com/ JBRamsey/jonbenet.htm
Jon Benet Ramsey

5 A. photo by Minton
Senior Chavon Curry

5 B. picture courtesy of http:// dianaland.musicdot.com/
Diana Ross

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February 2001
RBW

Nelly's Getting 'Down Down Baby'

By Catharine McNelly
Music Entertainment Editor

Never before has a St. Louis musician had the kind of success as 21-year-old Nelly (Cornell Haynes, Jr.) has had in the past year. His album *Country Grammar* has spent over 30 weeks on the "Billboard 200" and has gone Platinum five times.

Although Nelly was born in Texas, he considers St. Louis his home. His father's military positions took their family as far as Spain before they settled in St. Louis.

"St. Louis is real. It's the rawest of the raw," Nelly told a reporter. "It's so small so everybody knows each other. I've got a love/hate relationship with it."

Growing up in poor neighborhoods full of condemned homes, gangs and drugs had its toll on Nelly. It wasn't until Nelly and his mother moved to University City that he discovered his love for baseball and storytelling.

"Baseball was my first love, but I got wrapped up in the streets," Nelly told *Rolling Stone* magazine. "Money was coming in faster than (team) letters, and I got distracted. I had to get off the block, and rapping did it."

In high school, Nelly met friend Kyjuan. In 1993, the two hooked up with Murphy Lee, Ali, Slodown and Nelly's brother, City Spud, to form a hip-hop group called the St. Lunatics. By 1996, the group released their self-produced single "Gimmie What Ya Got," which became an instant local hit, earning airtime on The Beat (100.3 FM).

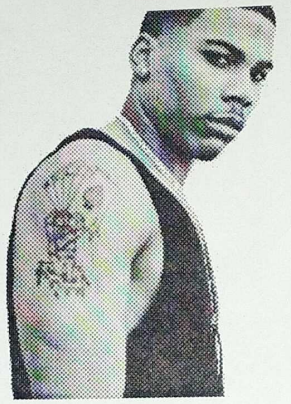


photo courtesy of yahoo.com
Nelly's debut Country Grammar has sold over 5 million copies

After struggling with record companies, the St. Lunatics decided Nelly would have a better chance at national success if he went solo. "I don't necessarily feel like a solo artist. I'm just the key in the door for the rest of the Lunatics," said Nelly. "I'm the first to release an album, but we're all family. We came together from nothing, so it's the St. Lunatics for life."

This past fall, St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon refused to issue an official proclamation to the famed St. Louis rapper, mostly due to his vulgar lyrics. In response to this refusal, ex-Mayor Freeman Bosley, Jr. presented Nelly with the recognition he deserved last December at the Cash Money Millionaires tour.

"We heard somebody doesn't want Nelly to have a proclamation," said Bosley after Nelly's set at the Cash Money concert. "Well we went to the state of Missouri and got him one."

Thanks to the success of his first album, Nelly has finally put St. Louis on the map. His first single, "Country Grammar," not only took radio waves by storm but spent two weeks at number one on MTV's Total Request Live last August.

When asked about the meaning of "Country Grammar," Nelly said, "That beat just stuck in my ear and I just put my own 'country grammar' spin on it.

"St. Louis is a country part of the U.S., and the way we talk, dress and our actions are all country. I'm trying to get St. Louis noticed. I'd like to start my own record label and let other acts here shine. I don't want this city to be overlooked anymore."

Limp Bizkit Fan Dies at Sydney Concert

By Laura Griffith

A 15-year-old Limp Bizkit fan attending a show on the group's Big Day Out Tour in Sydney, Australia this January suffered a heart attack during the concert and died on January 31.

After being pulled out of the mosh pit, the victim, only known as Jessica, was revived backstage and was listed in critical condition. She died five days later.

Because of the death, the rest of the Sydney dates were cancelled due to safety concerns. "We are devastated that Jessica died, and really nothing can describe the sadness and anguish we're feeling," explained the group. "We offer sympathy, prayer and compassion to her family and friends. The loss of her life will impact ours forever."

To prevent another tragedy such as this, Big Day Out co-producer Ken West proposed that the band play to smaller crowds and/or have the band play two nights in the same city. The Big Day Out tour goes on.

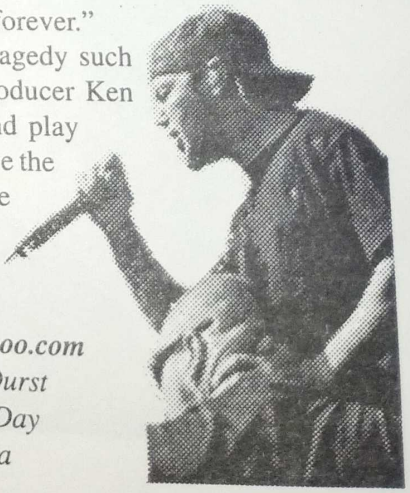


photo courtesy of yahoo.com
Limp Bizkit frontman Fred Durst performs at the group's Big Day Out Tour in Sydney, Australia

Concert Calendar

March 4
O-Town
The Pageant

March 11
The Alkaline Trio
The Galaxy

March 11
Yahoo! Outloud featuring Weezer
The Hearnes Center
(Columbia, MO)

March 19
Outkast and Ludacris
The Pageant

March 20
A Perfect Circle
The Pageant

March 21
matchbox twenty and Everclear
The Savvis Center

March 22
Destiny's Child
The Hearnes Center
(Columbia, MO)

Hardcore Rap or Hardcore Hate

By Carol Lyons

American rap star Eminem is being accused of promoting homophobic prejudice and violence. He was accused by British gay activists. "It is easy to imagine Eminem as a woman-hating, repressed gay man," said Peter Thatchell of the protest group Outrage. "He appears to be very insecure about his sexual identity." The British group has tried to form protests, though they are finding it hard because security is so tight.

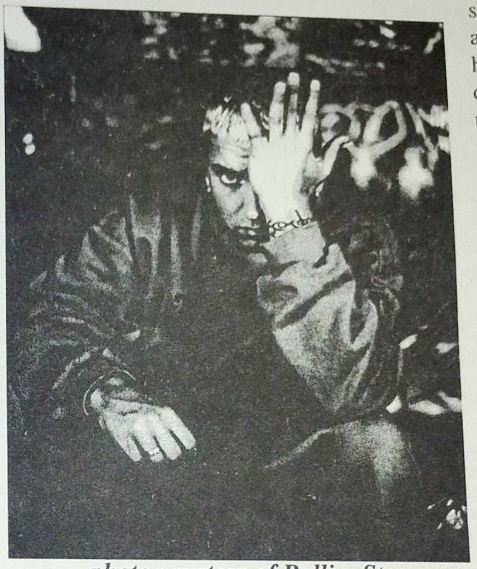


photo courtesy of RollingStone.com
Rap star Eminem has received much criticism from several activists groups.

A San Francisco-based Family Violence Prevention Fund (an anti-violence group) has launched a "No to Eminem" campaign to keep him off the Grammy Awards ceremony. Students at an English University have banned his songs and t-shirts and are calling him anti-gay. Students who show up in Eminem-wear at Sheffield University's disco have been warned and will be turned away.

Eminem is praised by some critics as an edgy, ground-breaking performer, yet others condemn him for his profanity-laden lyrics. "His homophobic jibes help make bigotry cool and acceptable," said Thatchell.

Eminem plans on flying to Britain in February. He will be performing in Manchester where he is expected to be confronted by gay and lesbian activists.

MICROSOFT's X-box equals X-tra

By John Mook

With Playstation 2 so hard to come by, games are looking for a new console to keep their eye on. That console is Microsoft's X-box.

X-box is Microsoft's first console designed for video games. It is said it will revolutionize the video game world. Its CPU almost doubles Nintendo's new system, Game Cube, and almost triples Playstation 2's with a whopping 733 MHz. Its graphics processor stands at 250 MHz compared to Playstation 2's 147.456 MHz graphics processor and Game Cube's 202.5 MHz graphics processor. It processes 125 million polygons per second compared to Playstation 2, which processes 66 million polygons per second, and Game Cube, which processes only six to 12 million polygons per second.

"X-box is a ground-breaking and advanced platform. We hope that it will promote growth of, and activate, the game industry," said Masaaki Onki, president of Victor Interactive Software, Inc.

Tons of programmers have signed with X-box. Activision, Info Games, Midway, Konami, Nanco and THQ are just a few to say the least.

"The incredible hardware performance combined with powerful design tools and a flexible architecture will allow designs to produce visually stunning, highly entertaining video games," said Neil Nicastro, CEO of Midway Game, Inc.

Movie Calendar

Coming to Theaters

March 2

The Mexican
**starring Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts*
See Spot Run

March 9

15 Minutes
The Adventures of Joe Dirt
**starring David Spade*

March 16

Exit Wounds
**starring Steven Seagal and DMX*
Say It Isn't So
Town and Country

March 30

Spy Kids

Now Available on Video

Dr. T and the Women
Lost Souls
WWF- Survivor Series 2000
Urban Legends:Final Cut

Arsenic at Alton High

By Alison Hanold

Typically, sweet old women do not kill people. However, in the Brewster household, anything is possible.

Alton High School's Theatre Department is currently in rehearsal for the play "Arsenic and Old Lace," written by Joseph Kesselring. The story centers around the Brewster sisters, Abby and Martha, who are incredibly sweet and loved in their community but have taken up "mercy" killings as a hobby. Unfortunately, insanity not only runs in their genes, it practically gallops.

The old women have three nephews, two of whom are quite crazy themselves. There is Teddy, who believes he is Theodore Roosevelt, Jonathon, a serial killer who has plastic surgery after every killing and has wound up looking like Frankenstein, and Mortimer, the good apple of the bunch who nearly drives himself crazy trying to figure out what he should do about his quite abnormal family tree.

The cast of the show includes both veterans to the theatre department and newcomers.

The cast includes seniors Erin McCann, Ben Harris, Stephen Heintz, Amber Smith, juniors Alison Hanold, Adam Betz, Jeremy Meyers, David Morris, sophomores Brandon Krepel and Michael McCann, and freshmen Adam Tucker, Greg Jackson, Chris Hesh and Kevin Butterfield.

"I'm incredibly excited about doing this show," said senior Erin McCann, who plays the role of Abby. "It's a classic and one of my personal favorites. I've been wanting to do this since my freshman year."

The show will be performed March 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. The show is under the direction of Glenn Waters. Waters was quite enthusiastic when making his decision about what this year's spring play would be.

"I was racking my brain trying to think of what our next show should be, when I saw a sign that said 'What is old is new again.' I knew then and there that we had to do this show. It was only perfect."

Be My Valentine

By Andy Herrin

The thought of a childhood geek coming back for revenge is not as scary as intended. The creators of the new horror film "Valentine," however, thought it would be. This movie is based on the idea that a kid who was picked on grew up to be a psycho. The idea is much scarier than the movie.

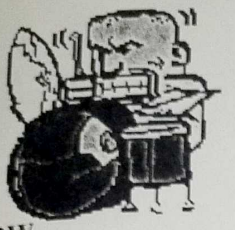
photo courtesy of excite.com

David Boreanaz plays the picked on geek in Valentine.

The movie is about four attractive women, who as children, treated a boy very badly. They made fun of him all the time, and the last time they picked on him was Valentine's Day, 13 years ago.

In the beginning, the girls start receiving demented valentines. Then, as some of the girls are murdered, they begin to put the obvious puzzle together, that it was the boy they picked on. From then on, it follows the traditional murder movie plot. Attractive women are killed in skimpy outfits, and none of the characters realized who the killer is.

"Valentine" is probably one of the most predictable horror films of all time. From the moment it begins, it is pretty obvious who the killer is. The only entertaining thing about "Valentine" is the background music. Overall, the idea of a killer on the loose on a holiday is not a bad idea, but it was better the first time when it was called "Halloween."



HUMOR

RBW

This is all satire. Calm down.

February 2001

EVIL "CANADIANS" BLIGHT NORTH AMERICA

By Stephen Heintz
Humor Editor

In America's own back yard, just a few miles to the north, lives a huge clan of psychotic barbarians. These brutes call themselves "Canadians." These "Canadians" formed their primitive equivalent of a country back in 1983, during the American Great Depression. For years, they have been pretending to be a sweet, loving little country full of environmentally caring people. Only now, with the publication of this paper, will the truth about the Canuck menace be revealed.

I have very good reason to believe that Canadians have been stockpiling what they consider weapons in preparation for a massive assault on America. Reportedly, huge caches of heavy rocks, empty beer bottles, hockey sticks, and moose antlers have been found scattered all over their country, just waiting to draw the blood of us virtuous defenders of capitalism.

In an attempt to help prepare our nation's military for the upcoming onslaught of drunken Canucks, I picked up the phone and called up my good friend, and current head of the CIA, Mr. Mysterious. Mysterious had this to say: "Why, our military intelligence has known 'aboot' the Canadian threat for a long time now, if you could even refer to them as a real "threat." Our super-neato satellites have countless pictures of those primitive storehouses full of rocks and sticks. Don't you worry about it. We here at the CIA are more frightened of an invasion of rabid babies. If the Canadians try anything we'll just send over four or five guys with rifles to take over their little country."

Despite the CIA's bravado, I am still quite distressed. The United States government has obviously greatly underestimated its retarded cousin to the north. Canadians may not have any military technology whatsoever, but they frequently fly into psychotic drunken rages, in which they lose all feelings of pain or morality. Not only that, but they've got half of Niagara Falls, and they're right in-between us and Alaska. Not only that, but they've got that huge CN Tower thing. Who knows what its true, evil purpose is? Well, like I always say, "If the government can't do it the RedBird Word CAN." I promptly rallied together my fellow editors.

"Okay, here's the breakdown," I said. "Entertainment girls: you research Canadian entertainers. Find out the best ways to get them distracted. News people, you punch them while they're distracted. Editor-in-Chief: you get the cruise missiles. Everyone else will be backup. Let's MOVE IT, PEOPLE!"

By the time I looked up, most of them were either gone or laughing at me. I'm not sure who, but someone threw a desk at me. I was on my own.

Well, realizing that my fellow journalism students weren't behind me, I went to seek the assistance of my old Harvard college chum, professor VonBranium, the mad scientist.

"Vell, Stephen," he said in his thick German accent, "ve have several options in zis scenario. Ve can either nuke zem into oblivion, or ve can just go in and steal all their stuff."

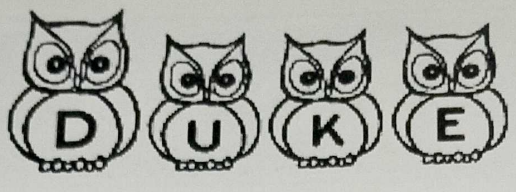
"Well," I said, "there'd certainly be less death if we just stole their stuff, but I'm really in the mood to turn Canada into a smoldering radioactive wasteland."

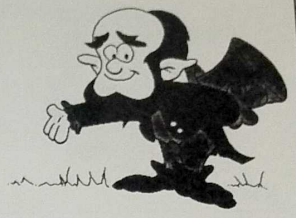
"Vait one minute," said VonBranium, "Ve cannot just go around nuking innocent people Venever Ve feel like it!"

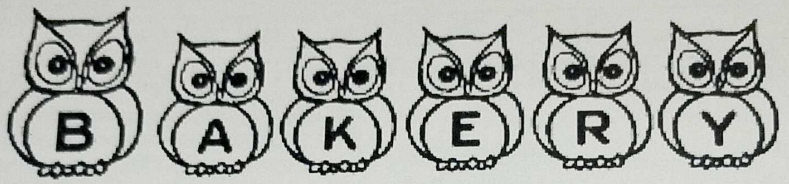
Then we laughed, and pushed the button.

A sincere apology to any Canadian readers:

I just wanted to clear up any misconceptions here, and let all possible Canadian readers know that they have my deepest apologies. Not that I'm sorry for what I wrote, but I'm sorry that you're Canadian. You can't help where you were born and raised, but you can escape around the age of 18. I went to a few government sites, and if you check out www.escape.gov, there is an 1-800 number that you can call to get government assistance. Apparently, they will kidnap you in the middle of the night, fly you away on a helicopter, blow up your house, and give you FREE shock therapy to remove your kooky accent. After that, it's an easy 40 years in a military sweatshop, and you'll have the whole remainder of your life to enjoy your amazing freedom. Now if that's not a good deal, then I don't know what is, eh?

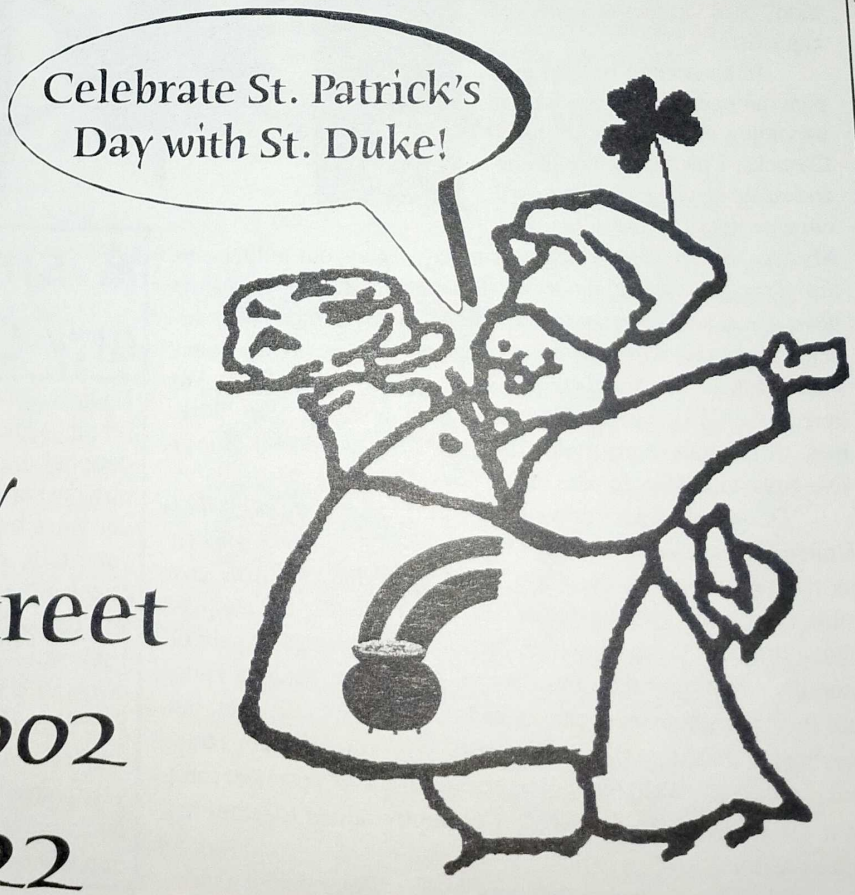




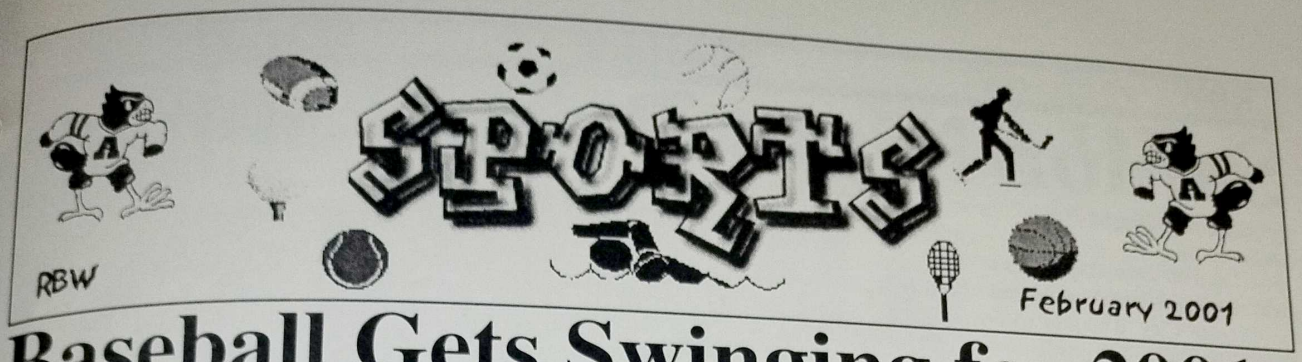


Real Irish men celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a batch of shamrock cookies from Duke's!

We're your pot of gold when it comes to sweets!



Duke Bakery
819 Henry Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 462-2922



Baseball Gets Swinging for 2001

By Jeff Saville
Sports Editor

With the 2001 baseball season approaching, the Alton Redbirds have been preparing themselves for another winning season.

Since late November, the baseball team has been on a strict weightlifting routine, increasing in weight and maxing out to their full potential. The team has also been running the main stairs and doing foot work drills to increase on their base running and to work the cardiovascular system.

The team also meets at East Middle School to hit in the cages, field ground balls, and continue to get themselves in shape doing more running and medicine ball lifting.

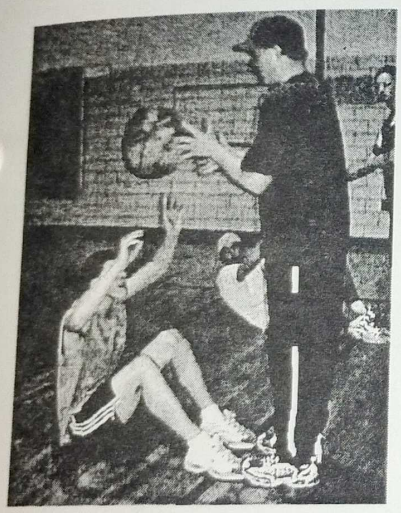


photo by Jeff Saville
Bryan DeSherlia and Jimmy Bertoletti lift a medicine ball to work their lower body

This year's team should be very strong in the Southwestern Conference with such returning lettermen as Jimmy Bertoletti, John Bertoletti, Jeremy Bond, Matt Dorner, Pat Gibson, Steven Nash, Jeff Saville, Nick Stalker, Wesley Strowmatt and Zach Wooley.

When asked about his thoughts on the upcoming season, coach Scott Harper said, If we can play the same as well as we've prepared in the offseason it should be a good year."

Senior Stephen Nash said, "We are just going to have to roll the dice and see what happens."

This year's team will be playing their home games at the newly remodeled Loyd Hopkins' Field at Gordon Moore Park. The field has gone through many changes, such as new grass, a canopy over the stadium seats, and more bleachers. It also has a time and temperature clock in left field, and a picnic table area above both dugouts. The field was remodeled to hold the large crowds of the 2000 Legion World Series held there last summer.

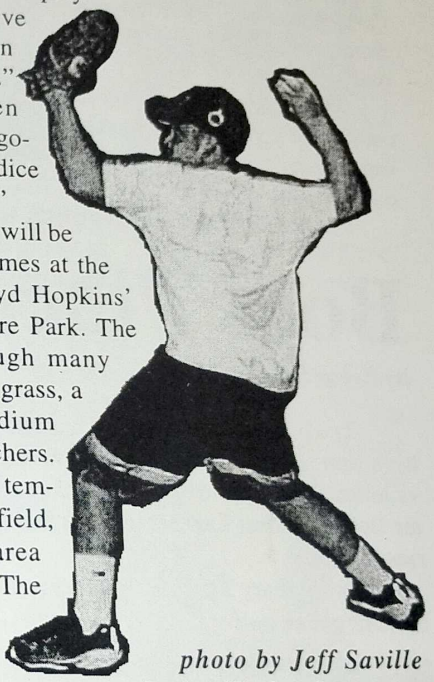


photo by Jeff Saville
Senior Wesley Strowmatt throws in the gym

The newly remodeled field will not guarantee a winning season, but it will make a better place to play and view the game.

With this many returning letterman and a succesful season last year the team should dominate the conference.

Soccer Girls Get Pumped for Season

By Katie Scoggins

The girls soccer team is beginning their spring 2001 season. This year the players and coaches believe they can go all the way. The girls are looking good and have been working hard at preparing themselves for the season.

Weight training has been every Tuesday and Thursday for the past five weeks. During this hour the girls work at building up their strength and preparing their muscles for the season.

The varsity team has been meeting every Saturday in the main gym for the past three weeks, where they practice their foot skills and working together. They are preparing early for their opening game, which is March 21 against Sacred Heart Griffin. The girls enjoyed hearing that their opener was against this team rather than Granite City, one of the best teams in the Southwestern Conference who they have opened to for the past two years.

Sacred Heart is also a good team, but the girls believe they will be able to handle this team better then Granite City.

Senior Night Brings Smiles

By Stephanie Wright
Senior Editor

On February 5 the Alton girls' basketball team defeated the Granite City Warriors (56-45) to win Senior Night and the first conference game of the season.

The Alton Girls'Basketball team has not won a conference game for the past three years.

"It was nice winning a conference game at home, and it was also my Senior Night," said senior Christianne Beck.

Beck was the only senior on the team this year. She has played basketball for Alton High for the past four years.

"I'm glad we broke the three year losing streak in the conference. I am proud of my team," said Beck.

It was a close game until the fourth quarter, then the Redbirds ran away with the win.

Jessica Stockard was the high scorer with 31 points. She made 11 field goals and was nine for 14 from the freethrow line. Michelle McCrady also helped the Redbirds with 18 points.

Boys Place Second in Sectionals

By Keion Lacey

The boys' basketball team has been red hot lately. They have won seven games straight. Three wins were conference victories. The Redbirds beat the Edwardsville Tigers (66-35), the Belleville East Lancers (64-53) and the Granite City Warriors (78-58).

On February 2 the Redbirds let go of their winning streak by falling nine points short to the Belleville West Maroons.

The Redbirds went to Belleville with plenty of pride after defeating the Maroons in the Centralia Holiday Tournament in December for the fifth place trophy.

"Ramon Kelly got hot in the second half, and we just couldn't stop him," said senior center Michael Stockard.

Kelly finished the game with 34 points and the win against the Redbirds.

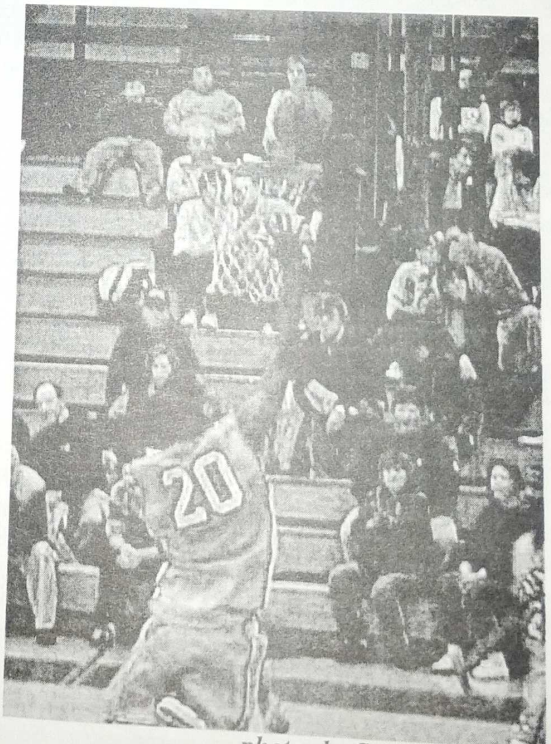
"I felt that we played extremely hard," said senior Jovan Smith. "They just got the best of us."

The Redbirds were placed second in their sectional after their loss to the Collinsville Kahoks on January 6 in Collinsville.

The Redbirds lost the game by two points.

"They deserve it because they beat us that game," said senior center Michael Stockard.

On February 9 the Redbirds got some revenge on the Kahoks. The Redbirds beat the Kahoks in overtime at West Elementary School.

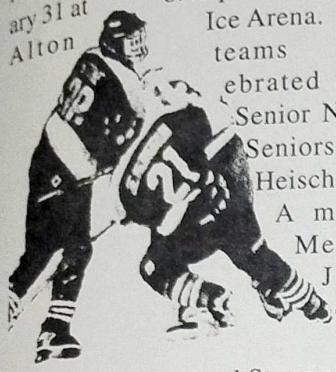


photos by Stephanie Wright

Senior Night Sparks a Win

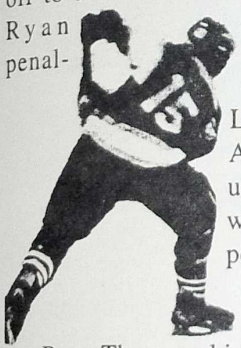
By Audrey Hinrichs
Business Editor

Alton High Hockey club challenged the Bethalto Eagles on January 31 at 8:45 p.m. at the East Alton Ice Arena. Both teams celebrated their Senior Night. Seniors Eric Heischmidt, Amos Melvin, Jeremy Yates, Gary Cox and Richard Stone set out for the predetermined win.



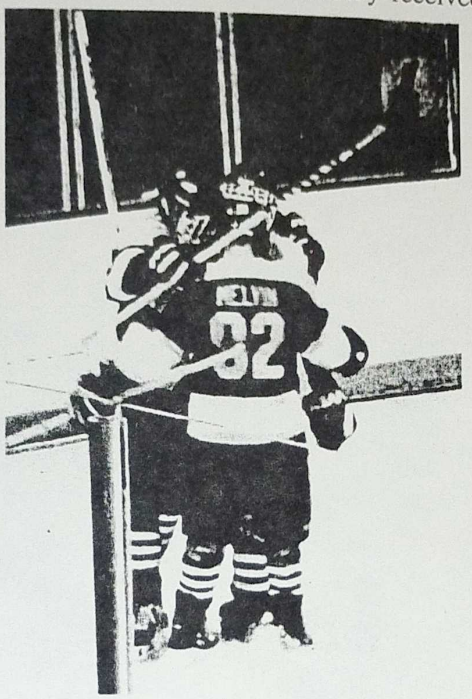
Parents were invited onto the slippery ice before the game to share the moment with their senior. Parents and players posed for photographs to add to the memorable night.

With each team especially determined to win, the first period got off to a slow start. Defenders Eric Heischmidt and Ryan Theen received hooking penalties.

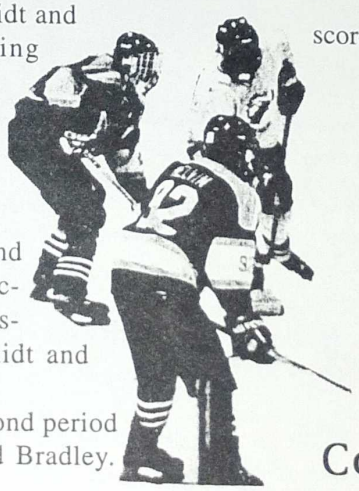


Freshman Tommy Lester stepped up to give Alton the lead scoring an unassisted goal, 1-0. Then with 7:25 left in the second period, Lester scored his second goal of the evening assisted by Eric Heischmidt and Ryan Theen making the score 2-0.

A fight broke out with 6:11 left in the second period between Heischmidt and Bethalto player Chad Bradley. Bradley received a five minute major and a game misconduct.



photos by Audrey Hinrichs
Seniors Amos Melvin and Eric Heischmidt celebrate freshman Tommy Lester's goal.

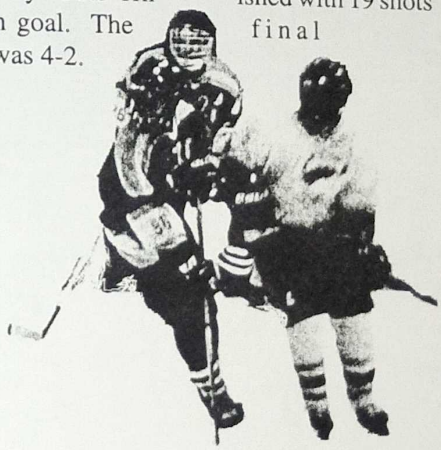


Bethalto scored their first goal with five on three against Alton defenders junior Jason Plunk and freshman Nick Farrow and forward freshman Tim Demumbren, 3-1.

Junior Mike Diaz and sophomore Ryan Theen help senior Richard Stone off the ice after a mild injury.

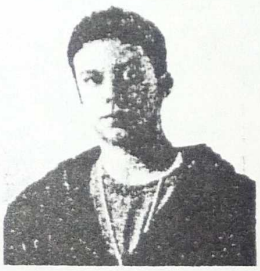
Freshman Lance Martin scored with 6:05 left in the third period assisted by Lester and Plunk advancing the lead 4-1.

Bethalto scored again with 16.8 seconds left in the third. The final attempt was not enough to beat the Redbirds. Goalie Gary Cox finished with 19 shots on goal. The final score was 4-2.



Captain
Amos Melvin

Assistant Captain
Eric Heischmidt



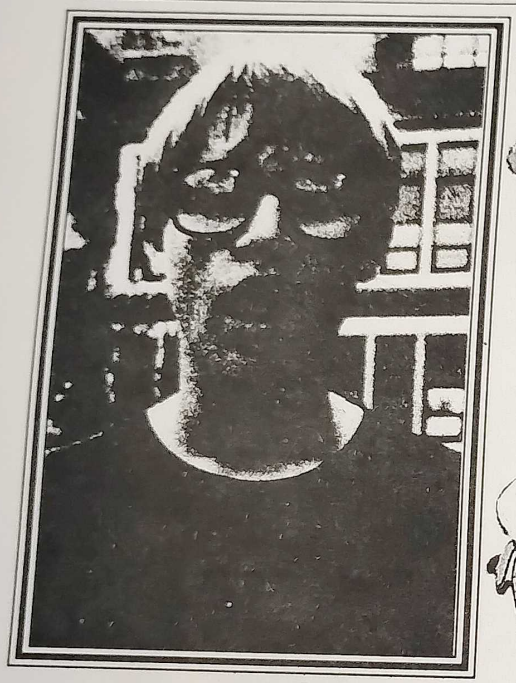
Assistant Captain
Ryan Theen

Congratulations to members of the MVHCA All-Star Team.

Amos Melvin
Ryan Theen
Eric Heischmidt
Tommy Lester

~~Cuddle~~ Up With ~~Courtney~~
SNUGGLE STEPHEN

Courtney was going to do her page, but I think she had to go shopping, or something. Well, I got stuck with it, so don't expect to be entertained...EXPECT TO BE AMAZED!!



I went around and interviewed some kids in the Pit to find out their opinions on the school. Then I made some up.

Jacques Cousteau, senior- Ze school... She is a beautiful place... I love ze cafeteria. Ezpecially ze fish sticks.
Mr. T, freshman- This school is the happenin' place to be, jive turkey. I pity da fool who messes wit' my campus.
Jeff Goldblum, junior- The, uh... school... it's, it's, it's, uh... it's good. Good.
Roberto Benigni, senior- The school. It's- a da 'orrible place. I no a-like. Is bad. The Juniors, they should no park.

Horror-scopes

Aries (March 21- April 19): A chubby little angel named Cupid driving the semi-truck of love is speeding down the middle of the street and drinking heavily. You're jaywalking. Congratulations!
Taurus (April 20- May 20): Be kind to fast food employees: they've got minimum wage and a mouth full of spit.
Gemini (May 21- June 20): The person you're dating? They're secretly a vegetarian. Trick them into eating meat, and watch the fun unfold!
Cancer (June 21- July 22): You will find great fortune- if you rob a bank. If not, then you'll still be poor.
Leo (July 23- Aug. 22): You either purchased or borrowed a copy of the RedBird Word. The cosmos know all.
Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): Hey, those pants make you look fat. HA HA, CHUBBY!
Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): Never...EVER...trust a Russian. That's more of a rule of thumb than a prediction, though. Those communists have hearts as cold as their climate.
Scorpio (Oct. 23- Nov. 21): A close friend will soon kill and eat your family...in self-defense. Be sure to have lots of steak sauce and salt around the house.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): Everything you do will inevitably break down and fail. Everything you touch will bear the mark of your failure. Every friendship you forge will rapidly turn into hatred. Everything you have ever accomplished will soon turn against you and lead to your inevitable ruin. Your life is going to turn into the huge, pathetic mess that it was always destined to be...look for love in a Taurus!
Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 19): The stars and planets can see down your shirt! HA HA!
Aquarius (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): You're just pathetic.
Pisces (Feb. 19- March 20): Your significant other is currently cheating on you... with **SADDAM HUSSEIN!!**